



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact

Sarah Ardalani,
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOOffice

July 7, 2015

Man Sentenced to Prison for Killing Cousin

A 30-year-old man was sentenced today to 26 years to life in state prison after he was found guilty of fatally stabbing his cousin last year, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On May 29, a jury deliberated for less than an hour before finding Bryant Keith Underwood guilty of first-degree murder in case NA098831. Additionally, jurors found true a special allegation that the defendant used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a knife, during the commission of the crime.

Deputy District Attorney Kelly Kelley, who prosecuted the case, said in the early morning of April 8, 2014, police received a 911 call reporting that there were strange noises coming from victim Ahkeem Johnson's Long Beach apartment. Additionally, the caller said someone had been stabbed.

When police arrived on the scene, they found Johnson in his home with 28 stab wounds to his neck, back and torso, the prosecutor said. The 27-year-old victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

During the homicide investigation, a witness told authorities they saw Underwood, the victim's cousin, unsuccessfully try to jump the back fence of the apartment complex following the stabbing, the prosecutor said.

As the defendant was attempting to leave the apartment complex, police apprehended Underwood and arrested him in connection with the killing, the prosecutor said.

During the trial, officers testified that when Underwood was arrested, his clothing was covered in blood, he was wearing a bloody glove, and he dropped two large bloody knives as officers approached.

The case was investigated by the Long Beach Police Department.

###

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.